

REUNIFICATION OF CYPRUS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Cyprus has made great strides in the past decade. It turns out that, just like the United States, Cyprus has a lot of natural gas. Let's hope they don't have as much bureaucracy to get through to export their gas as we do. But the country is held back because it is still divided by a foreign power. Turkey still has 30,000 troops in Cyprus. Erdogan thinks he is still in control. The beauty of democratic elections is that you can see what the people really want.

And faced with the choice between a candidate that wanted to keep Cyprus divided and one that wanted to reunify Cyprus, Turkish Cypriots chose reunification.

It is encouraging to hear that negotiations between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots are getting back on track. You know, I was a judge in my former life. I dealt a lot with one word: justice. And as a judge I would never have allowed the kind of bullying that is seen by Turkey. The Turkish Cypriots should be able to negotiate on their own behalf. If they want peace, they should be able to get it. They don't need another foreign country like Turkey telling them what they can and cannot agree to. They do not want to be dependent on Turkey. They want to enjoy the economic freedom of the EU.

Reunification will require a lot of work, but ultimately it will only happen if the two sides talk to each other. This time next year I hope we can come together to celebrate the reunification of Cyprus and the end of over 40 years of Turkish occupation.

And that's just the way it is.

H.R. 1493, THE PROTECT AND PRESERVE INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY ACT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to submit the thoughts of my friend, Matthew Polk, regarding the consideration of H.R. 1493, the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act. Matthew Polk is deeply involved in the preservation of cultural heritage and I believe his comments are both insightful and valuable to the ongoing effort to preserve the cultural heritage of civilizations around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I first wish to thank Congressman Issa for his interest in this matter and the opportunity to provide a statement for the Congressional Record.

With regard to H.R. 1493, I applaud this bipartisan effort to protect Syrian cultural property as well as to coordinate our Government's enforcement efforts to protect international cultural property. I also applaud Mr. Chabot's and Mr. Engel's understanding that this bill is not meant to target the lawful trade in Syrian or other cultural goods and that it only authorizes import restrictions on artifacts illegally removed from Syria after the start of its civil war. Nonetheless, it must be emphasized that the

burden remains on the Government to prove that the artifact in question is illicit. While protecting Syrian cultural artifacts from looting is important, it is also important that we stay true to our own values. Our tradition of due process requires that the Government meet its burden of proof before private property may be seized or forfeited. This legislation does not change the burden placed on the Government under the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act. Here, as under the CPIA, the Government must establish: (1) the item is of a type that appears on the designated list of Syrian artifacts that will be created; (2) the item was "first discovered" in Syria and is subject to Syrian export control; and (3) the item was illegally removed from Syria after the effective date of the restrictions, which in this case is March 15, 2011. The fact that an object's "country of origin" or manufacture may be "Syria" cannot constitute the sole basis for its seizure and forfeiture under either this legislation or the CPIA.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW S. POLK, JR.,
*Board Member—The
Committee for Cul-
tural Property,
Former Trustee—The
Baltimore Museum
of Art, Member—The
Museum Trustees
Association, Mem-
ber—The Walters
Art Museum Collec-
tions Committee,
President—Historic
Textile Research
Foundation.*

RECOGNIZING SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT PARK GEUN-HYE AND U.S.-KOREAN ALLIANCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am disheartened to hear that South Korean President Park Geun-Hye's visit to Washington, D.C. was postponed due to the growing threat of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS) outbreak in the Republic of Korea. I know this is a very difficult time for the South Korean people and would like to send my deepest sympathy to the victims of this deadly virus. I express my utmost confidence in President Park's ability to lead the people of her beautiful country out of this crisis.

As always, the success and future of the Peninsula remain a priority for me. As a Korean War veteran, I have a very personal tie to Korea and its people. Since returning home from my service in the Korean War over six decades ago, I have proudly witnessed South Korea's rise as a war-torn nation to becoming an international giant, which is a testament to the resilience and industriousness of the Korean people. All across America, Koreans have inspired us with their entrepreneurialism and perseverance toward strengthening the fabric of our nation.

I commend President Park and Ambassador Ahn Ho-Young for further strengthening U.S.-Korean ties. As you know, the relationship between our country and the Republic of Korea is deeply rooted in our unbreakable bloodshed

alliance. As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Korea from Imperial Japan, I will continue working to help promote peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula—in hopes that the two Koreas will be reunified in my lifetime.

RETIREMENT OF DR. JAMES HADLEY BILLINGTON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary leadership of Dr. James Hadley Billington, the 13th Librarian of Congress and renowned scholar of Russia. Following 28 years of tireless service, Dr. Billington announced that he will be retiring from his post as the Librarian of Congress. During his tenure, Dr. Billington made significant contributions by providing visionary leadership as he ushered the Library of Congress into the digital age.

Since being unanimously confirmed by the Senate in 1987, Dr. Billington has overseen the expansion of the Library's collection size. It has roughly doubled, from 85.5 million items in 1987 to more than 160 million items today. Dr. Billington dedicated much of his efforts to ensuring that our nations historic items and collections be made readily available to the American public. In his early years, at the dawn of the internet age, he worked to facilitate an innovative program for the Library of Congress known as the National Digital Library (NDL) Program, which ensured that American historical and cultural information was available online. As a result of his efforts, projects such as the NDL, Congress.gov, and numerous pieces of information from the U.S. Copyright Office have become frequently used in K-12 education systems across America.

In addition to efforts ensuring the spread of the richly diverse history of the United States, Dr. Billington is also responsible for the development of the World Digital Library. A project similar to the NDL, the World Digital Library compiles cultural materials from the 193 countries listed in the UNESCO into one database for public access. I can say without question that throughout his decades of service, Dr. Billington has been firmly dedicated to the spread of information.

Dr. Billington has been an outstanding leader and educator to both our nation and the world. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors. I have no doubt that his contributions to our global society will have a significant impact on scholastic achievement for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the service and sacrifice of Dr. James Hadley Billington.

COBDEN HIGH SCHOOL CAPTURES STATE BASEBALL TITLE

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Cobden High School for capturing the Illinois

Class 1A state baseball title. The Appleknockers defeated Okawville Rockets 9 to 3 in Peoria.

Cobden made its third state tournament appearance and first since 1987, when it lost 12–1 in five innings to Columbia in the state title game.

CHRISTIAN PASTOR DUONG KIM
KHAI JAILED IN VIETNAM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, since the early 1990's, Pastor Duong Kim Khai has been detained or arrested thirteen times. The first time he was arrested he was just 14 years old. Usually, he is arrested for simply organizing Christian prayer sessions. Most recently, he was arrested in August 2010 for his efforts to advocate for religious freedom and social justice. The trumped up charge? Attempting to overthrow the government.

For this, he was sentenced to 2–8 years in prison and 3–5 years probation and house arrest.

Unfortunately, his wife, who was denied permission to visit him in prison, died before she could see him again. In 2011, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention ruled that the Vietnam government's detention and conviction of Pastor Duong Kim Khai and six other activists were in violation of international law.

But the State Department refuses to include Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern for religious freedom. The Pastor is not only a spiritual leader in his community but he also works to promote democracy and help victims of injustice. For example, he has served as an advocate for Vietnamese farmers whose land was confiscated by the government.

Pastor Duong Kim Khai's trial was a sham and imprisonment is unacceptable. Freedom to worship is a human right and the Vietnamese government should immediately release him. Until they do, the State Department should call it like it is and recognize Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF LARNELL SAWYER

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Larnell Sawyer, of Chino Valley, Arizona.

Larnell Sawyer recently received the Teacher of the Year award for outstanding work as a teacher at Lincoln Elementary. Lincoln is recognized as a haven for academic achievement and growth. Ms. Sawyer has played a crucial role in creating this reputation.

Larnell Sawyer has deep ties to Chino Valley. She grew up and attended school there from kindergarten through high school. She then moved to Tucson and attended the Uni-

versity of Arizona, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. After teaching 1st grade for a year in Tucson, she got married to her high school sweetheart and moved back to Prescott. After her own initial academic successes, Larnell was hired in Chino Valley to teach an English Language Development kindergarten class, which she taught for two years. Realizing that she wanted to expand her knowledge, Larnell started her Master's program at Northern Arizona University and received her advanced degree in Early Childhood Education. Afterwards, she continued to teach in Chino Valley for another two years and was ultimately hired at Lincoln Elementary in 2012, where she continues to roar with pride as a Lincoln Lion kindergarten teacher. When the dedicated Ms. Sawyer is not shaping the minds of her students, she is spending quality time with her husband and two daughters.

Ms. Sawyer is a prime example of a great educator, and the positive influence that she has on her students will resonate for years to come.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 15

5 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on lifting sanctions on Iran, focusing on practical implications.

S-116

JUNE 16

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jonathan Elkind, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs), and Monica C. Regalbuto, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).

SD-366

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine health information technology, focusing on

what providers and the Department of Health and Human Services can do to improve electronic health record user experience.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Federal real property reform, focusing on how cutting red tape and better management could achieve billions in savings.

SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security

Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Fiscal Year 2016 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill."

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Fiscal Year 2016 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations."

SD-124

JUNE 17

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's final rule to regulate disposal of coal combustion residuals from electric utilities.

SD-406

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine CBO's analysis of the Federal government's deepening fiscal challenges.

SD-608

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

SR-253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on evaluating accreditation's role in ensuring quality.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine governing through goal setting, focusing on enhancing the economic and national security of America.

SD-342

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the economic exposure of Federal credit programs.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Carol Fortine Ochoa, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, General Services Administration.

SD-342